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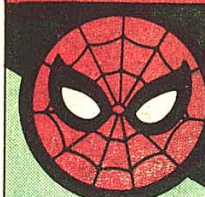
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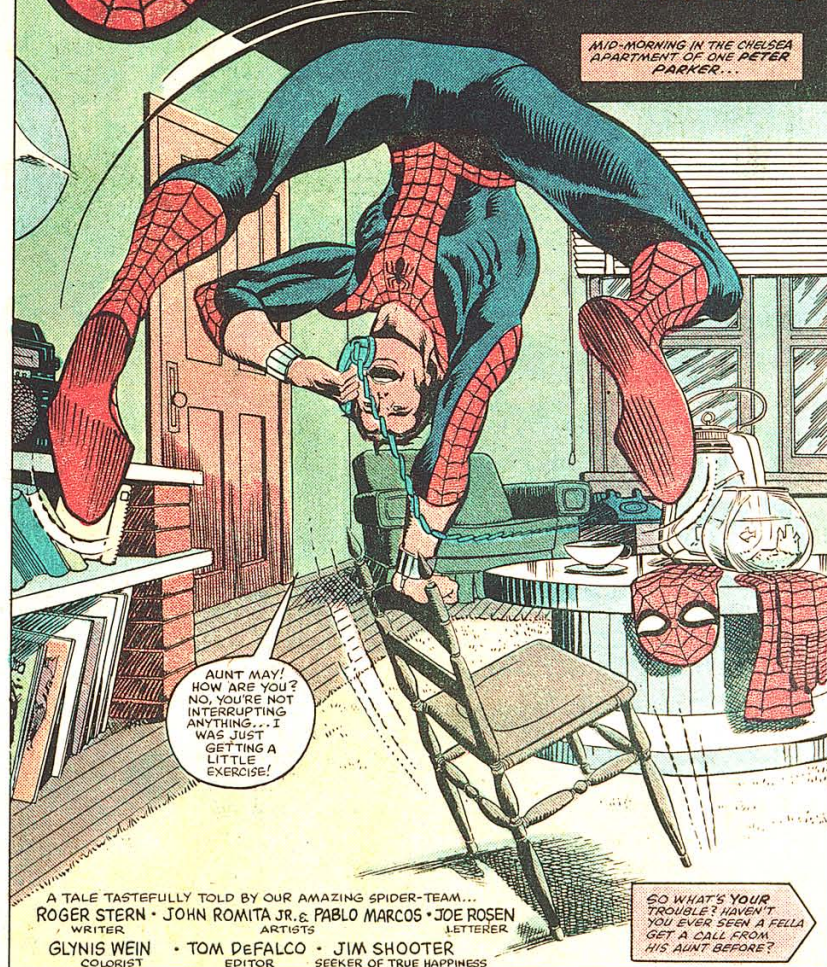
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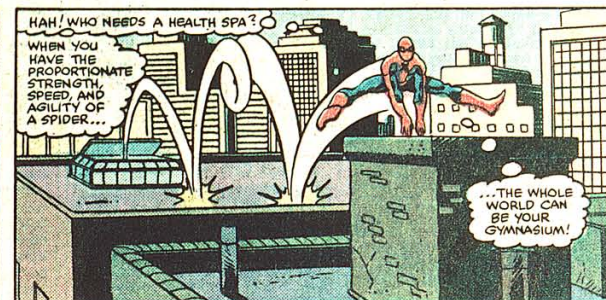
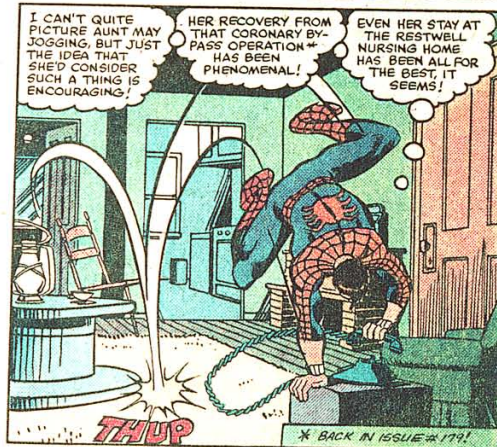
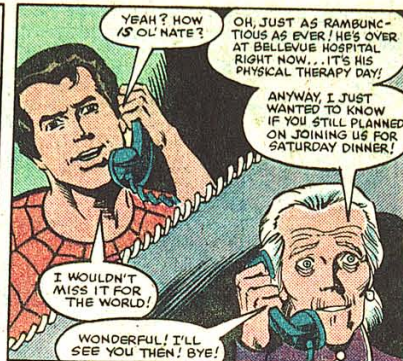
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APARTMENT OF ONE PETER
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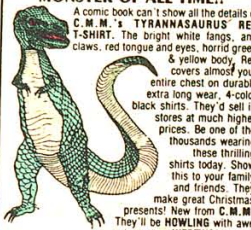
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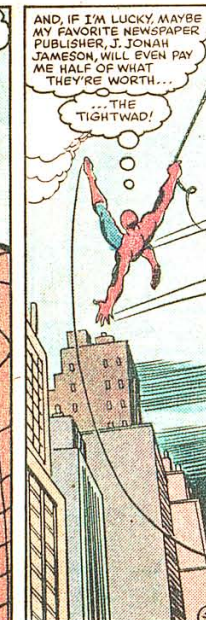
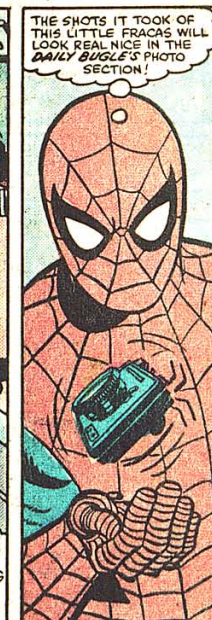
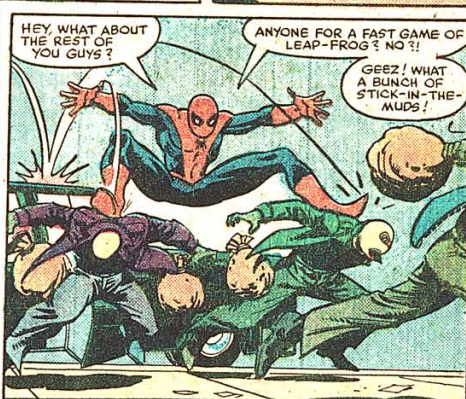
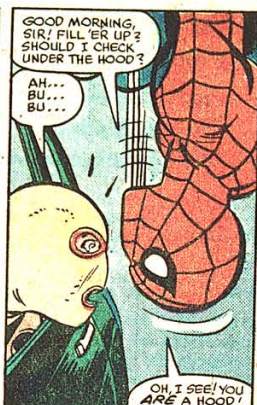
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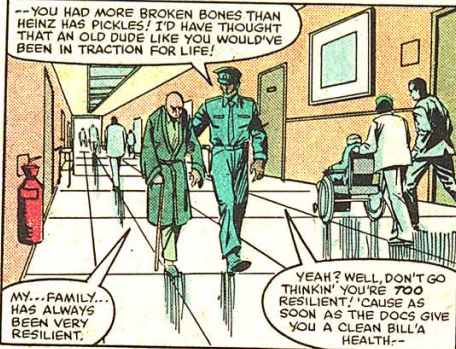
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MEANWHILE, AT MANHATTAN'S
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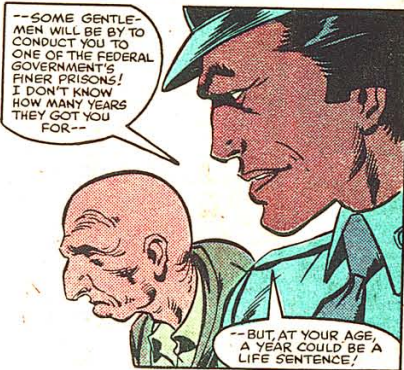
I'M TELLIN' YOU, MAN-- YOU MUST'VE BEEN BORN UNDER A LUCKY STAR! I MEAN--



--YOU HAD MORE BROKEN BONES THAN HEINZ HAS PICKLES! I'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT AN OLD DUDE LIKE YOU WOULD'VE BEEN IN TRACTION FOR LIFE!

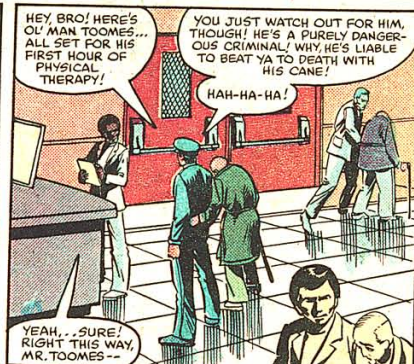
MY...FAMILY... HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY RESILIENT.

YEAH? WELL, DON'T GO THINKIN' YOU'RE TOO RESILIENT! 'CAUSE AS SOON AS THE DOCS GIVE YOU A CLEAN BILL'A HEALTH--



--SOME GENTLEMEN WILL BE BY TO CONDUCT YOU TO ONE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FINER PRISONS! I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY YEARS THEY GOT YOU FOR--

--BUT, AT YOUR AGE, A YEAR COULD BE A LIFE SENTENCE!

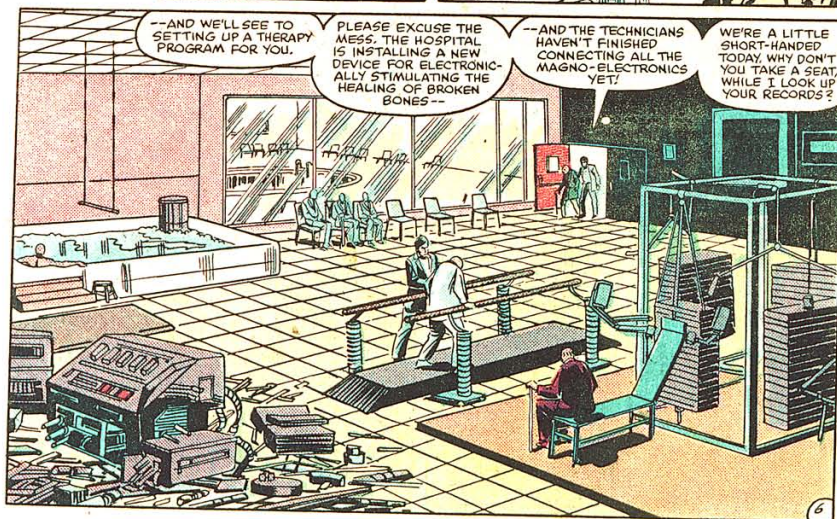


HEY, BRO! HERE'S OU' MAN TOOMES... ALL SET FOR HIS FIRST HOUR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY!

YOU JUST WATCH OUT FOR HIM, THOUGH! HE'S A PURELY DANGEROUS CRIMINAL! WHY HE'S LIABLE TO BEAT YA TO DEATH WITH HIS CANE!

HAH-HA-HA!

YEAH...SURE! RIGHT THIS WAY, MR. TOOMES--

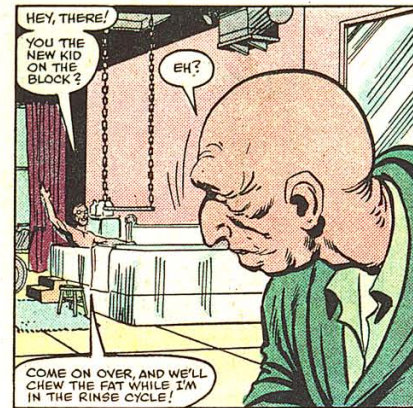


--AND WE'LL SEE TO SETTING UP A THERAPY PROGRAM FOR YOU.

PLEASE EXCUSE THE MESS. THE HOSPITAL IS INSTALLING A NEW DEVICE FOR ELECTRONICALLY STIMULATING THE HEALING OF BROKEN BONES--

--AND THE TECHNICIANS HAVEN'T FINISHED CONNECTING ALL THE MAGNO-ELECTRONICS YET!

WE'RE A LITTLE SHORT-HANDED TODAY. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A SEAT, WHILE I LOOK UP YOUR RECORDS?



HEY, THERE! YOU THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK?

EH?

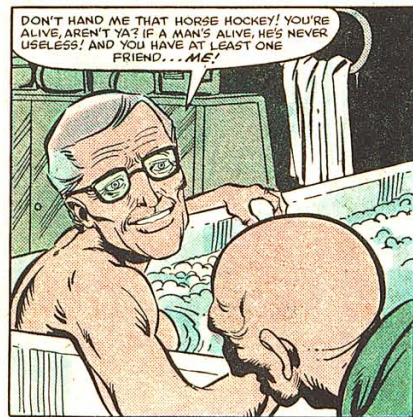
COME ON OVER, AND WE'LL CHEW THE FAT WHILE I'M IN THE RINSE CYCLE!



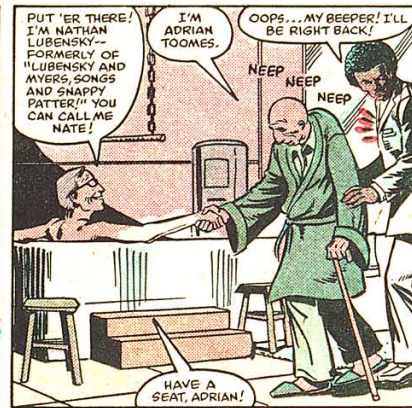
THEY TREATIN' YOU ALL RIGHT?

AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED. I JUST GOT OUT OF TRACTION.

AH, I THOUGHT YOU WALKED A LITTLE STIFFLY. SAY...IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?



DON'T HAND ME THAT HORSE HOCKEY! YOU'RE ALIVE, AREN'T YA? IF A MAN'S ALIVE, HE'S NEVER USELESS! AND YOU HAVE AT LEAST ONE FRIEND...ME!



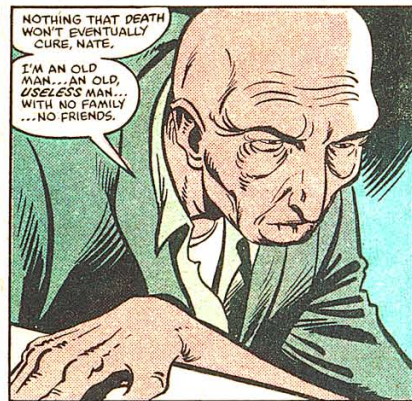
PUT 'ER THERE! I'M NATHAN LUBENSKY--FORMERLY OF 'LUBENSKY AND MYERS, SONGS AND SNAPPY PATTERN! YOU CAN CALL ME NATE!

I'M ADRIAN TOOMES.

OOPS...MY BEEPER! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

NEEP NEE NEE

HAVE A SEAT, ADRIAN!



NOTHING THAT DEATH WON'T EVENTUALLY CURE, NATE.

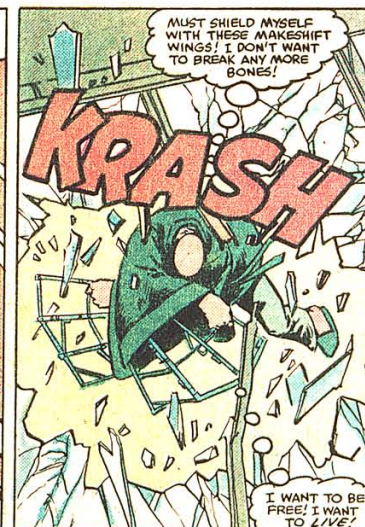
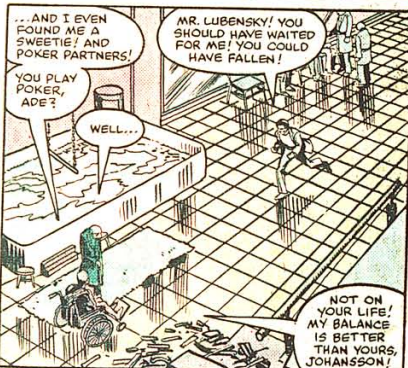
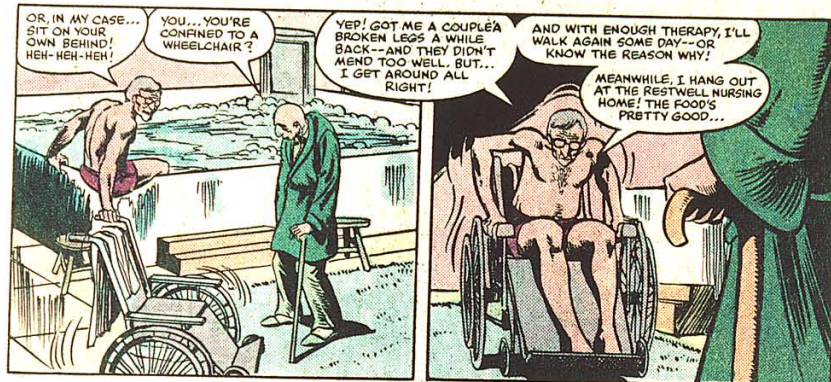
I'M AN OLD MAN...AN OLD, USELESS MAN... WITH NO FAMILY...NO FRIENDS.



WHEW! I BELIEVE I'VE BEEN IN THIS POOR MAN'S HOT-TUB LONG ENOUGH!

CAN I GIVE YOU A HAND?

THANKS, BUT I CAN DO THIS MYSELF! DOESN'T MATTER HOW OLD A BODY IS...YOU GOTTA STAND ON YOUR OWN TWO FEET!



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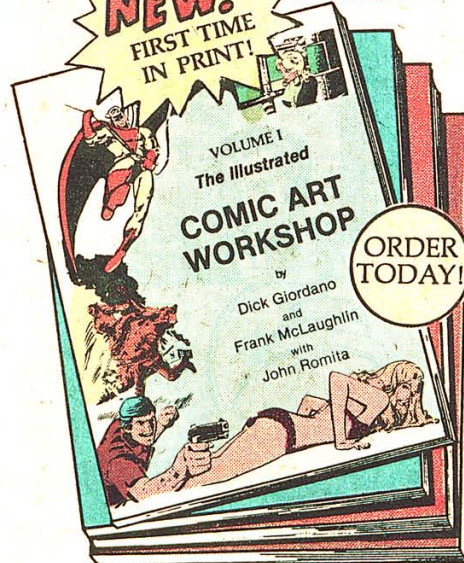
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Sweepstakes open to all residents of the U.S., except employees and their immediate families of Marvel Comics Group, Columbia Bike Co. and their subsidiaries, affiliates, advertising and promotion agencies, print and production agencies. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. All Federal, State and local regulations apply. Please allow up to six weeks for delivery for prize.

For a list of winners, send a separate, stamped self-addressed envelope to: Marvel/Columbia Bike Winners, Dept. 10, Marvel Comics, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022

BUT WHILE THE SEPTUAGENARIAN MASTER CRIMINAL SNAKES ACROSS THE NEW YORK SKIES, HIS GREATEST ENEMIES HAS SWITCHED TO STREET CLOTHES AND MADE HIS WAY HERE...



--TO MAKE USE OF A WELL-STOCKED DARKROOM!



NOT BAD! THAT NEW LENS I BOUGHT HAS REALLY COME THROUGH FOR ME!

THESE ARE SOME OF THE BEST CRIME PHOTOS I'VE EVER TAKEN... SHARP AND CLEAR AS A BELL!



I CAN FEEL THE MONEY IN MY POCKET NOW!

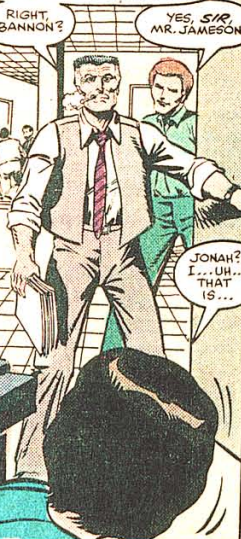
BUT, IN THE NEXT INSTANT...

WHA--?! MY PICTURES... THEY'RE RUINED!



BLAST IT, WHAT IGNORAMUS OPENED THE DOOR?!

WOULD YOU CARE TO REPHRASE THAT QUESTION, PARKER? I'M NOT KEEN ON HAVING FREELANCE EMPLOYEES CALL ME BY NAMES LESS RESPECTFUL THAN "SIR"!



RIGHT, BANNON?

YES, SIR, MR. JAMESON!

JONAH? I...UH... IS...



DARN IT! ISN'T IT STILL CUSTOMARY--AT THIS NEWSPAPER--TO KEEP THE DARKROOM DOOR SHUT WHEN THE WARNING LIGHT TELLS YOU THAT SOMEONE'S DEVELOPING PICTURES... SIR?

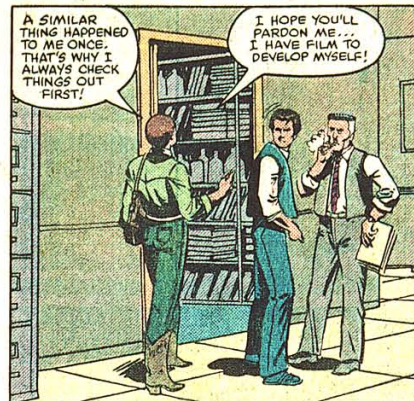
WARNING LIGHT? WHAT WARNING LIGHT, PARKER?

THE BOSS-MAN IS RIGHT, PETEY... IT'S NOT LIT, ARE YOU SURE YOU FLIPPED THE DOOR SWITCH?

WAIT... I BET I KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS!

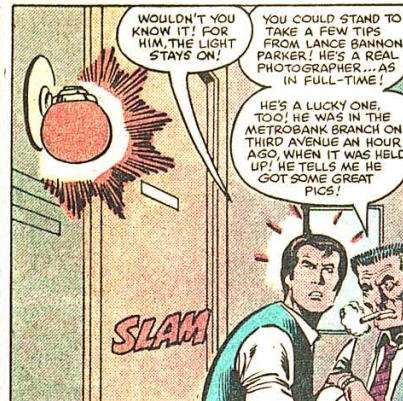


AH-HA! THERE'S A SHORT IN THE LIGHT! GEE, BAD BREAK, PETEY!



A SIMILAR THING HAPPENED TO ME ONCE... THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS CHECK THINGS OUT FIRST!

I HOPE YOU'LL PARDON ME... I HAD TO DEVELOP MYSELF!

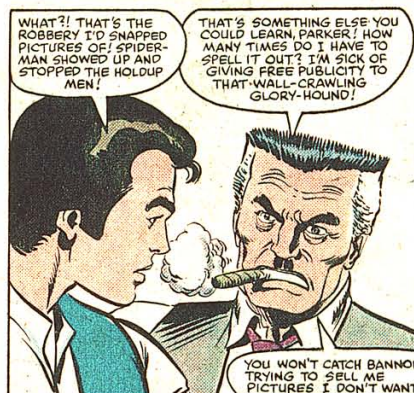


WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT! FOR HIM, THE LIGHT STAYS ON!

YOU COULD STAND TO TAKE A FEW TIPS FROM LANCE BANNON, PARKER! HE'S A REAL PHOTOGRAPHER... AS IN FULL-TIME!

HE'S A LUCKY ONE, TOO! HE WAS IN THE METROBANK BRANCH ON THIRD AVENUE AN HOUR AGO WHEN IT WAS HELD UP! HE TELLS ME HE GOT SOME GREAT PICS!

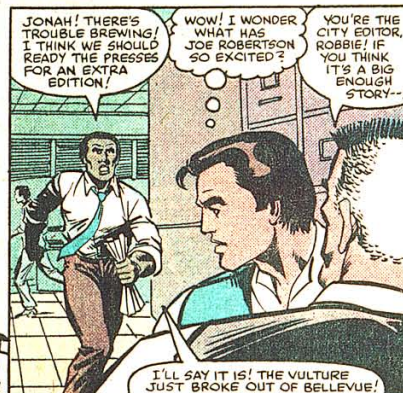
SLAM



WHAT?! THAT'S THE ROBBERY I'D SNAPPED PICTURES OF! SPIDER-MAN SHOWED UP AND STOPPED THE HOLDUP MEN!

THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU COULD LEARN, PARKER! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT? I'M SICK OF GIVING FREE PUBLICITY TO THAT WALL-CRAWLING GLORY-HOUND!

YOU WON'T CATCH BANNON TRYING TO SELL ME PICTURES I DON'T WANT!



JONAH! THERE'S TROUBLE BREWING! I THINK WE SHOULD READY THE PRESSES FOR AN EXTRA EDITION!

WOW! I WONDER WHAT HAS JOE ROBERTSON SO EXCITED?

YOU'RE THE CITY EDITOR, ROBBIE! IF YOU THINK IT'S A BIG ENOUGH STORY--!

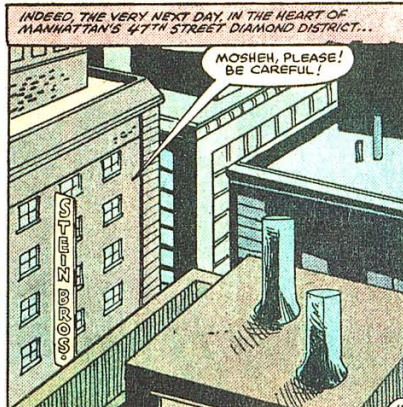
I'LL SAY IT IS! THE VULTURE JUST BROKE OUT OF BELLEVUE!



THE VULTURE?? FIRST, MY PICS ARE RUINED-- THEN, I GET UPSTAGED BY LANCE BANNON--

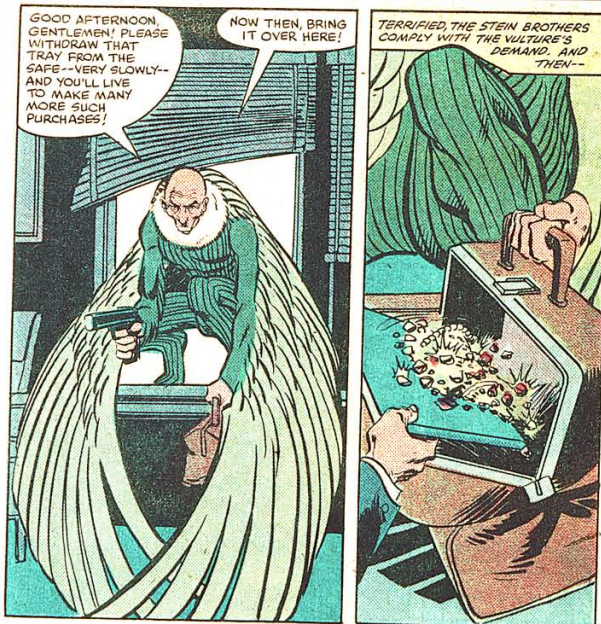
--AND NOW, ONE OF MY OLDEST, DEADLIEST ENEMIES BUSTS LOOSE! THIS JUST ISN'T MY DAY!

AND I'VE GOT THE SINKING FEELING THAT THINGS'LL GET WORSE BEFORE THEY GET BETTER!



INDEED, THE VERY NEXT DAY, IN THE HEART OF MANHATTAN'S 47TH STREET DIAMOND DISTRICT...

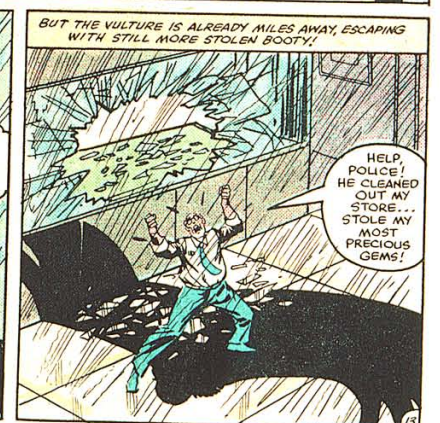
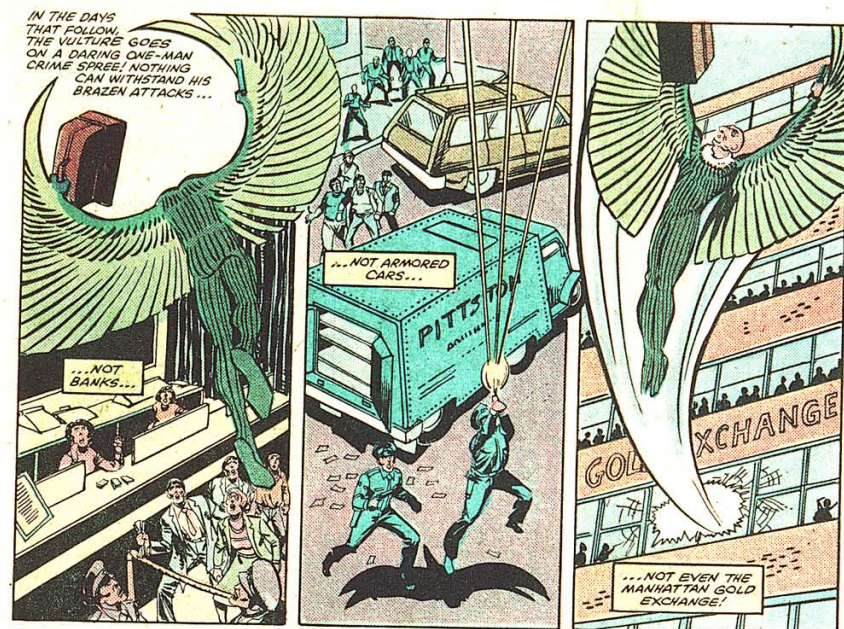
MOSEW, PLEASE! BE CAREFUL!



--BEFORE EITHER OF THEM CAN SO MUCH AS BLINK, THE WINGED MAN IS GONE!



12

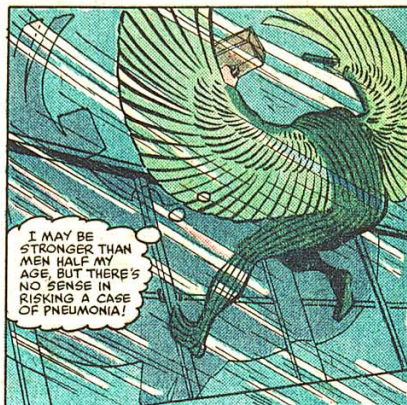




BAH! THAT SHOP WAS HARDLY WORTH ROBBING; I DOUBT THAT I GROSSED MORE THAN 50 GRAND!

PICKINGS ARE STARTING TO GET SLIM, MAYBE I SHOULD MOVE TO ANOTHER TOWN.

HMMPH! RAIN IS GETTING HEAVY, I MIGHT AS WELL CALL IT A DAY.



I MAY BE STRONGER THAN MEN HALF MY AGE, BUT THERE'S NO SENSE IN RISKING A CASE OF PNEUMONIA!

GENTLY KICKING THE WINDOWS OPEN, THE WINGED FELON LIGHTLY TOUCHES DOWN IN A MODESTLY FURNISHED ROOM!

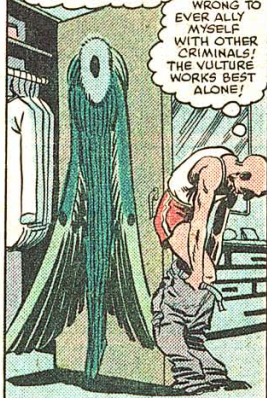


THIS IS THE BEST HIDEOUT I'VE EVER HAD! NO ONE WILL THINK TO LOOK FOR ME HERE!

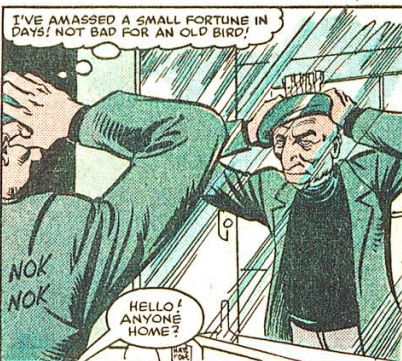
I'LL SOON HAVE ANOTHER TRUNK-LOAD OF LOOT TO MOVE DOWN TO THE STORAGE ROOM...



I HAVEN'T BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL SINCE I FIRST BEGAN MY CRIME CAREER!

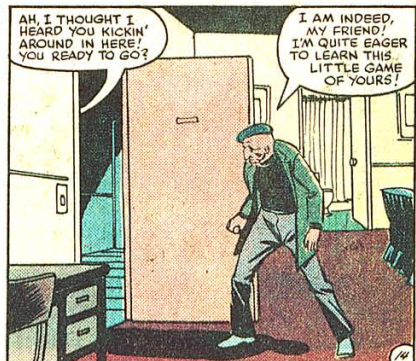


I WAS WRONG TO EVER ALLY MYSELF WITH OTHER CRIMINALS! THE VULTURE WORKS BEST ALONE!



I'VE AMASSED A SMALL FORTUNE IN DAYS! NOT BAD FOR AN OLD BIRD!

NOK NOK
HELLO! ANYONE HOME?



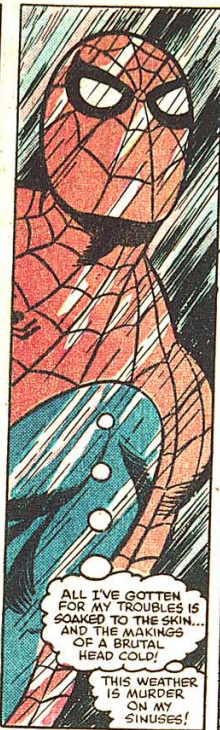
AH, I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU KICKIN' AROUND IN HERE! YOU READY TO GO?

I AM INDEED, MY FRIEND! I'M QUITE EAGER TO LEARN THIS LITTLE GAME OF YOURS!



THIS IS FOR THE BIRDS!

MEANWHILE, IN THE MIDDLE OF A FRUITLESS SEARCH, A VERY SOGGY SPIDER-MAN IS COMING TO A CONCLUSION...

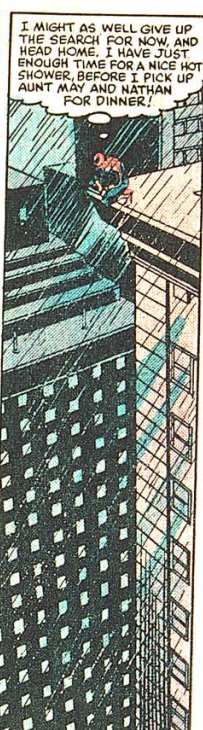


ALL I'VE GOTTEN FOR MY TROUBLES IS SOAKED TO THE SKIN... AND THE MAKINGS OF A BRUTAL HEAD COLD!

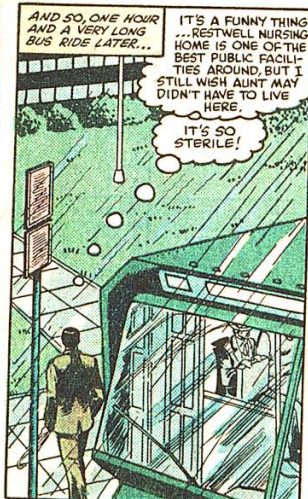
THIS WEATHER IS MURDER ON MY SINUSES!



I'VE BEEN BOPPING BACK AND FORTH ACROSS MID-TOWN FOR HOURS, AND I HAVEN'T SEEN SO MUCH AS A PIGEON... TO SAY NOTHING OF THE VULTURE!



I MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP THE SEARCH FOR NOW, AND HEAD HOME. I HAVE JUST ENOUGH TIME FOR A NICE HOT SHOWER, BEFORE I PICK UP AUNT MAY AND NATHAN FOR DINNER!



AND SO, ONE HOUR AND A VERY LONG BUS RIDE LATER...

IT'S A FUNNY THING... RESTWELL NURSING HOME IS ONE OF THE BEST PUBLIC FACILITIES AROUND, BUT I STILL WISH AUNT MAY DIDN'T HAVE TO LIVE HERE.

IT'S SO STERILE!

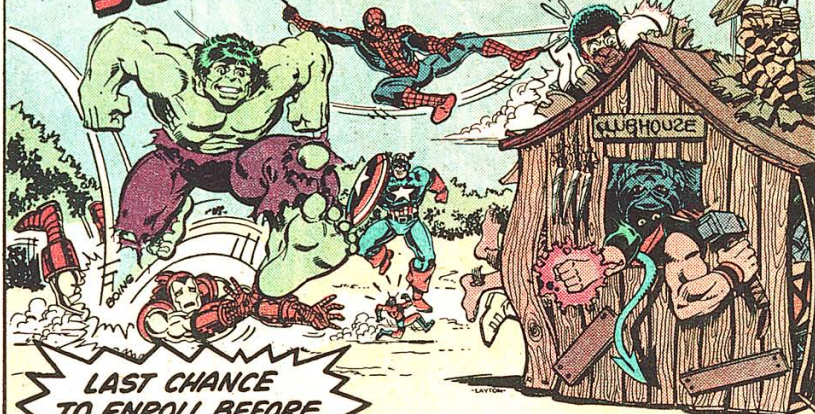


BUT IT DOES NO GOOD TO WORRY. I CAN'T AFFORD ANY BETTER FOR HER... AND SHE DOES SEEM HAPPY HERE.

EXCUSE ME, MISS... ARE YOU ONE OF THE FINALISTS IN THE MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT, OR LAST YEAR'S WINNER?

EH?

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| ☐ Dazzler | ☐ Power Man/Iron Fist |
| ☐ Defenders | ☐ ROM |
| ☐ Doctor Strange | ☐ Spider-Woman |
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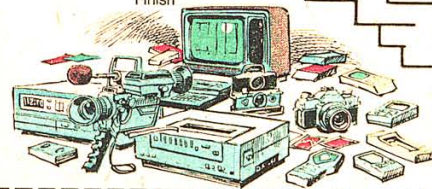
First, draw the path through the maze and then mail it in with your sweepstakes coupon.

Start

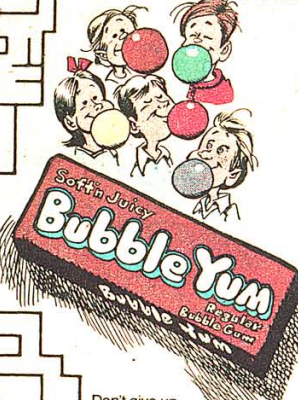
If you don't know where to turn, turn to Bubble Yum's five great flavors: Regular, Tropical Punch, Spearmint, Wild Cherry, and Grape.



Finish



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Don't give up—Bubble Yum's long-lasting taste doesn't. And it's got a smooth, soft chew too!

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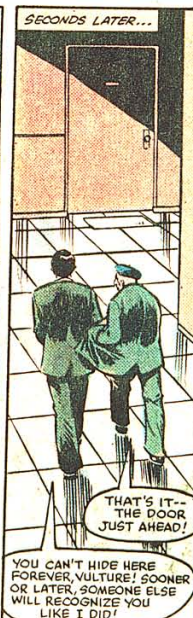
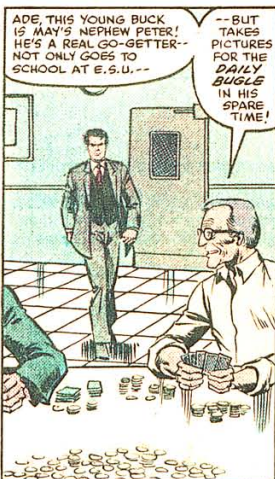
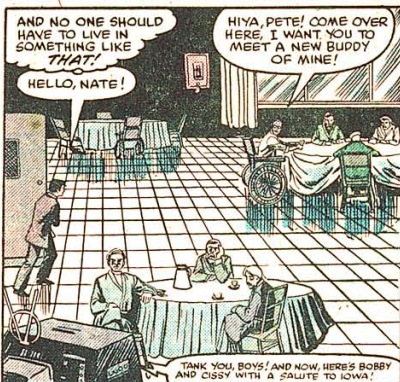
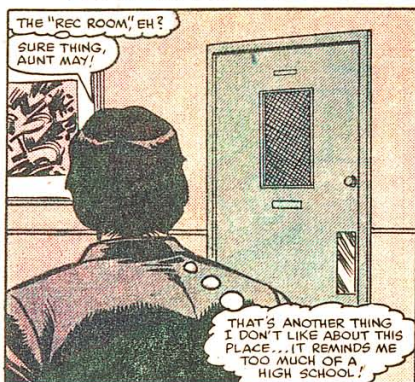
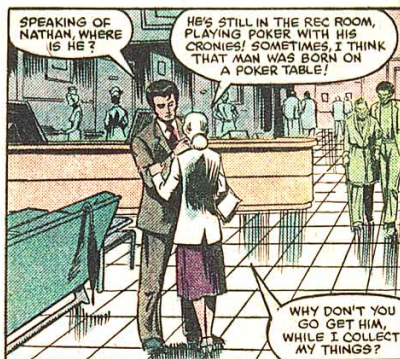
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- ★ And, third prize is a set of 4 Mattel hand-held computer games. (100 Winners)



Mail entries to:
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Lowell, IN 46356

1. Correctly completing the maze is not necessary for entry.
2. No purchase necessary. To enter, print your name and zip code on the official entry blank or on a plain 3x5 piece of paper. Each entry must include two (2) outside wrappers from: Bubble Yum bubble gum or print the words "Bubble Yum bubble gum" on a 3x5 piece of paper.
3. Enter as often as you like, but each entry must be mailed separately. Entries must be postmarked no later than December 31, 1981 and received by January 15, 1982.
4. Winners will be determined in a random drawing conducted by Venture Associates, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final. Winners will be notified by mail. All prizes will be awarded.
5. No duplicate prizes to a family and no substitutions. Winners may be required to sign a statement of eligibility and winners' names and likeness may be used for promotional purposes. Liability for taxes is the sole responsibility of the prize winners.
6. Sweepstakes open to U.S. residents, except where prohibited by law. Not open to employees and their families of Life Savers, Inc. their affiliates, advertising, and judging agencies.
7. For a complete list of winners, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Bubble Yum Family Fun & Games Winners List, P.O. Box 566, Lowell, IN 46356.





THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY ACE-IN-THE-HOLE! NO ONE EXPECTS AN OLD MAN TO BE AS STRONG AS I!



I'M NO ORDINARY MAN! THEY ALMOST MADE ME FORGET THAT IN THE HOSPITAL, BUT NATHAN SNAPPED ME BACK TO NORMAL! AND HERE AT RESTWELL, I HAVE THE PERFECT COVER!

NO ONE THINKS TO LOOK FOR THE VULTURE IN A NURSING HOME!



WHY, I WAS EVEN ABLE TO USE MY REAL NAME! NO ONE BOTHERED TO CHECK IT!

NOW, MY YOUNG FRIEND... WE'LL SEE HOW WELL YOU FALL FROM TEN THOUSAND FEET.

EH? WHO COULD THAT BE?



MR. TOOMES, NATHAN SAID THAT PETER CAME HERE WITH YOU.

WELL, HE DID, MRS. PARKER-- BUT HE DIDN'T STAY LONG!

HE SAID THAT HE HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO, AND HIGHTAILED IT OUT OF HERE.

I HOPE YOU'LL EXCUSE ME NOW, I WAS ABOUT TO TAKE A NAP!

OH, YES, OF COURSE.

WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN SO IMPORTANT THAT PETER WOULD LEAVE WITHOUT TELLING ME? HE HASN'T BEEN THAT THOUGHTLESS SINCE NATHAN WAS IN DANGER A MONTH AGO!*

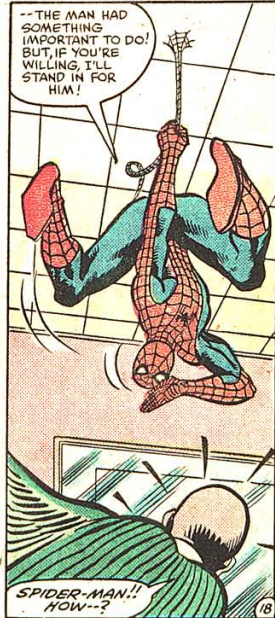
I THOUGHT THAT HE'D BECOME MORE RESPONSIBLE. HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO WRONG?

*SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #56.



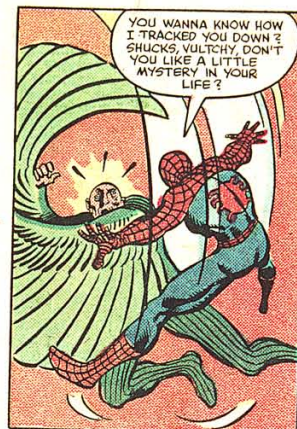
ALL RIGHT, PARKER, NOW-- EH?

LIKE YOU SAID, CHROME-DOME--



--THE MAN HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO! BUT, IF YOU'RE WILLING, I'LL STAND IN FOR HIM!

SPIDER-MAN!! HOW--?



YOU WANNA KNOW HOW I TRACKED YOU DOWN? SHUCKS, VULTURCHY, DON'T YOU LIKE A LITTLE MYSTERY IN YOUR LIFE?



YIPPEE! IT'S ALWAYS A BLAST, SPARRING WITH YOU, KIDDO! YOU GIVE THE BEST RIDES THIS SIDE OF UNCLE AL'S PONY FARM! BUT AREN'T YOU GETTING A LITTLE OLD FOR THIS?

OLD?? NEVER!!



WHOOOPS, I HIT A NERVE THAT TIME! THE VULTURE'S GOTTEN REAL ANTSY ABOUT HIS AGE... IT'S LIKE HE'S OUT TO PROVE HIMSELF!

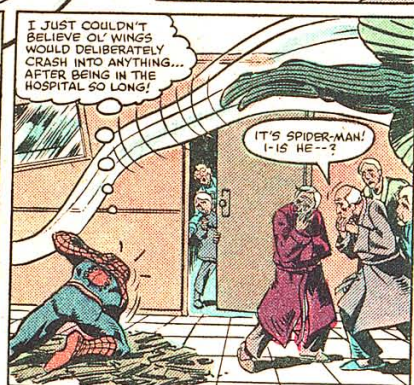
I'D SWEAR THESE FUNKY WINGS OF HIS MAKE HIM FASTER THAN EVER! AT THE SPEED HE'S GOING... OH, NO, HE WOULDN'T!



KRASH

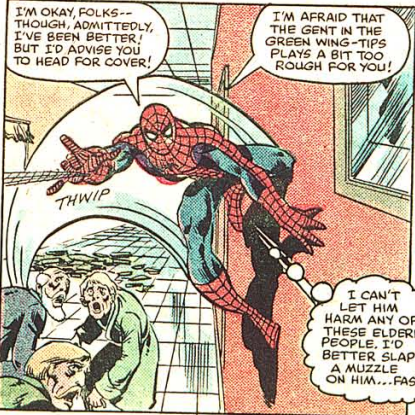
HE WOULD! OW! PUDDIN' HEAD PARKER BLOWS IT AGAIN! WHEN WILL I LEARN TO PAY ATTENTION TO MY SPIDER-SENSE?

AFTER ALL, IT DID WARN ME IN TIME TO ROLL WITH THAT BLOW TO THE HEAD WHICH VULTCH LAID ON PARKER!



I JUST COULDN'T BELIEVE OL' WINGS WOULD DELIBERATELY CRASH INTO ANYTHING... AFTER BEING IN THE HOSPITAL SO LONG!

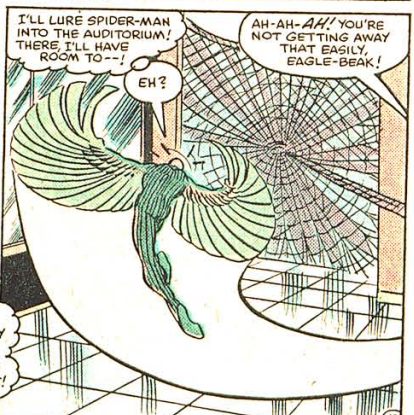
IT'S SPIDER-MAN! I--IS HE--?



I'M OKAY, FOLKS-- THOUGH, ADMITTEDLY, I'VE BEEN BETTER! BUT I'D ADVISE YOU TO HEAD FOR COVER!

I'M AFRAID THAT THE GENT IN THE GREEN WING-TIPS PLAYS A BIT TOO ROUGH FOR YOU!

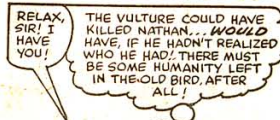
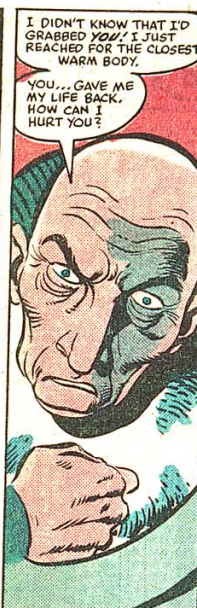
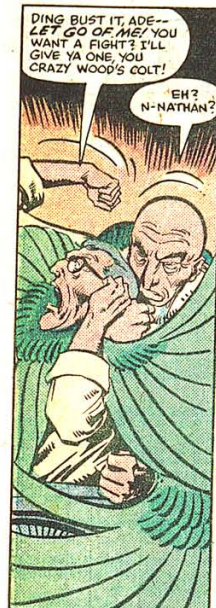
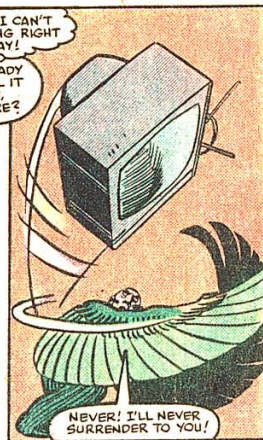
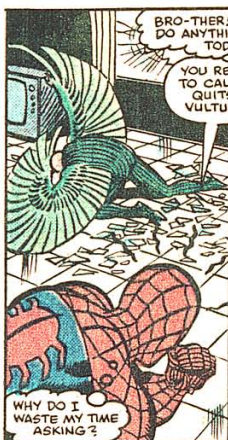
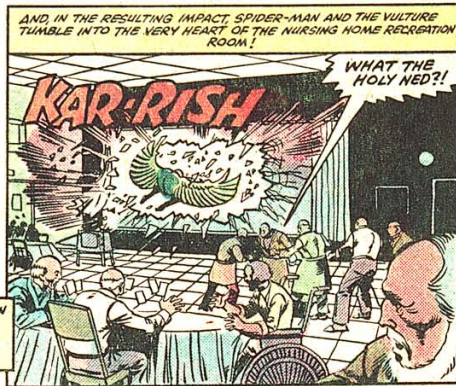
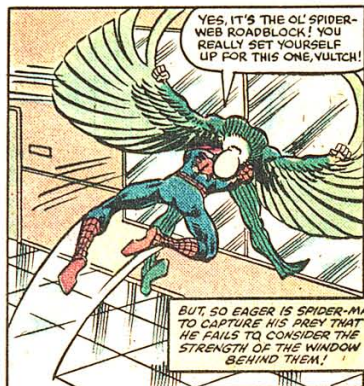
I CAN'T LET HIM HARM ANY OF THESE ELDERLY PEOPLE, I'D BETTER SLAP A MUZZLE ON HIM...FAST!



I'LL LURE SPIDER-MAN INTO THE AUDITORIUM! THERE, I'LL HAVE ROOM TO--

EH?

AH-AH-AH! YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THAT EASILY, EAGLE-BEAK!



BULPEN BULLETINS

HELLO, AGAIN...

A few months ago, I proudly announced that by popular demand, the Bulpen Bulletins page was back — and it was, for two whole months. Then a small problem developed. Due to a tiny miscommunication and a great big miscommunication, we suddenly discovered that we had sort of overcommitted our ad space for a row of two months. Well, folks, finally we've got it all straightened out, this time for sure! I absolutely, unequivocally guarantee that there will be a Bulpen Bulletins page each and every issue from now on... so will the fans holding Roger Stern hostage please let him go, or at least remove the bamboo shoots from under his fingernails?

ONWARD!

Though this column will appear in print in October, it is about 1:30 A.M., August 19th as these words flow like molasses from my Eberhard Faber #2 onto this yellow legal pad. How, then, can this be late? Are we really working that far ahead of our publishing date? Must be. They wouldn't make me stay up all night writing this if they didn't really need it. Well, today at 9 A.M. Would they? Hmm.

SECRETS BEHIND THE COMICS #147

I may be the only writer in comics who can't type at all (hence the legal pad and pencil). This sure takes a long time. Helpful hint to would-be writers and everybody else: Learn to type, even if you have to resort to the Doan's Minceh technique. As you know, writes MASTER OF KUNG FU and MOON KNIGHT brilliantly uses one finger to type out his plots and scripts. It's hard that way, but if you want to develop one really strong finger...

COMICS CONVENTIONS A RUI!

Summer is convention time, and the Mighty Marvel Creative Crew turned out in force for Phil Seuling's July 4th New York Convention, the Chicago Con in mid-July and the biggest of them all, the San Diego Comic-Con at the end of July. At his "July Con," as it's commonly called, Phil Seuling hosted a splendid cocktail party for Comics Creators, as is his custom, during which a new record was established for the most lies told in one room. At the Chicago Con, between panel discussions, art auctions and on-stage interviews conducted with class and crisp professionalism by Con host Mike Gold, I found time to attend a nifty party at the home of the FANTASTIC FOUR's superstar artist-writer John Byrne and his beautiful wife Andrea (call her "Andy"), and also to co-host a bash with Archie Goodwin at Chicago's famous Lawry's restaurant, for thirty-two comics folk, including a bunch from the competition. And, as you undoubtedly know, is Editorial Director of EPIC ILLUSTRATED magazine, which you ought to go out and buy right now because it's great. (That's not a plug, that's good advice.) In sunny San Diego I met Allen Saunders, a legend in the syndicated strip business for his work on *Mary Worth*, *Steve Roper*, and other top strips, and got a chance to renew acquaintances with B. Kliban, of *Car! fame*, and Larry Niven, the author of *Ringworld* and other great works of science fiction. Most importantly, however, at each of the conventions, I got to talk to and listen to you folks. I learned a lot.

LIKE WHAT, CORNBALL?

Like how much people cared about the death of Phoenix back in X-MEN #137. At the time the story was published, several fans were actually moved to send flowers to the Marvel offices in honor of Phoenix. I was impressed then. Now, I'm deeply touched. It seems that our characters are as real to you as they are to us. Wow.

WHAT ELSE?

I learned that DAZZLER is the dark horse fan fave of 1981! That is to say, many fans seemed to be surprised that they like the book. I'm not. I'm surprised how much they like it. Most folks agreed that the concept of a beautiful, female character with no limit on her power is very intriguing, and that the battle-with-Galactus issue was the "convincer."

MORE...?

Sure. Later, though. Now, before I forget, I want to mention another Convention I'll be attending, the

Minneapolis Comics Convention, October 10 and 11 at the Hotel Lexington in Minneapolis (You thought maybe McKeesport?). For info, write:

MPLS Comic Conventions
Box 3221 Traffic Station
Minneapolis, MN 55403

I'll be mentioning other Cons from time to time as space permits. Give one a try, will ya. It's a blast.

LOOSE END DEPARTMENT:

In the last Bulpen Bulletin page published I promised that Editor Dennis J. O'Neil would explain why his friends call him "El Jefe Del Mundo" or "Hef" for short. And so...

O'NEIL'S ORANGECRATE

Okay, I've got no choice. Jim Shooter promised an explanation of my title. No, not the title "editor" (of DAREDEVIL, MOON KNIGHT, POWER MAN & IRON FIST, MASTER OF KUNG FU, SPIDER-WOMAN and BIZARRE ADVENTURES... and no, we never do miss a chance for a plug). My other title. Since Shooter is huge enough to look menacing when he's doing nothing more scary than picking penurians — on weekends, he works as a shade tree — I'll comply. I was ambled down a lower Manhattan street on my way to a mugging contest when this little man darted out from a doorway... little guy whose last bath had been in the Red Sea the day Moses parted it, dressed in clothing the Salvation Army had probably rejected. I thought, another New York weirdo. He said, "Hey, mein freund. You jefe del mundo, you know? You chief of the world, capeesh?" Well, obviously, I had been mistaken. Here was a sage, a prophet, a messenger from a higher power. His words had the simplicity of profound truth. Then he said, "Hey, jefe, you got any spare change?" But I was already walking away, wondering how to convince the rest of you people...

ANOTHER LOOSE END:

There's a new face in the Bulpen, and an introduction is in order. I'm too tired to strike up the band, and so, without fanfare...

MIGHTY MARVEL'S NEWEST EDITOR...

...is Tom DeFalco, who'll be working on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL TALES, TEAM-UP, GHOST RIDER, and WHAT IF...? Tom brings an impressive and varied background to the job, having edited for years at Archie Comics, and having written virtually every character in comics, from Fred Flintstone to the Mighty Thor. Shortly before being pressed into service as an editor, he put in a tour of duty as a Marvel mainstay writer, turning in outstanding work on the DAZZLER, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, and TEAM-UP. Tom's list of accomplishments and credits goes on and on, but the best thing I can say about him is that he's smart enough to be home in his bed fast asleep now.

OUT OF SPACE ALREADY?

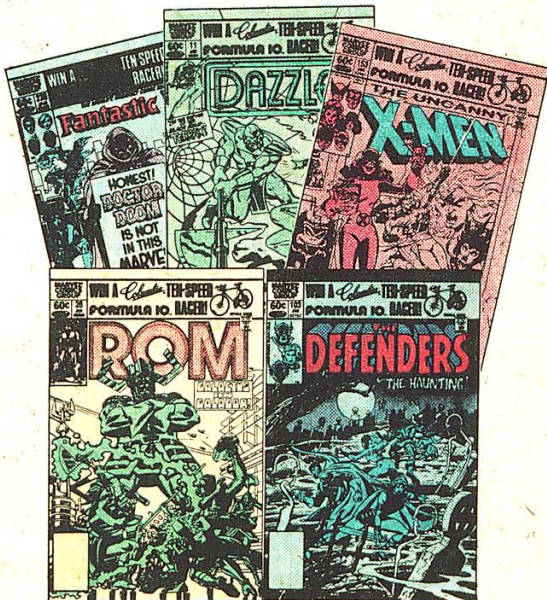
Thank Odin! It's 3:45 A.M. Too late to go home. Might as well just curl up on the floor of the office here and try to catch a couple of hours sleep. I've got a busy day ahead, what with Bob Hall coming in to plot AVENGERS #219 with Editor Jim Salicrup and me. Let's see, that's the one where the Avengers finally catch up with Moonranger and... hrm. Mustn't spill the beans.

What a glamorous life! What a hard floor!

NEXT MONTH:

The least-requested feature of all time will appear on this page — an actual photo of me. Careful! If I hear any groans, I'll print two!

Shooter
SHOOTER



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LOOK! CAPTAIN MARVEL'S BUILDING A TRAP!

YEAH, BUT WHAT'S GONNA MAKE THE FLEA FALL FOR THE TRAP?

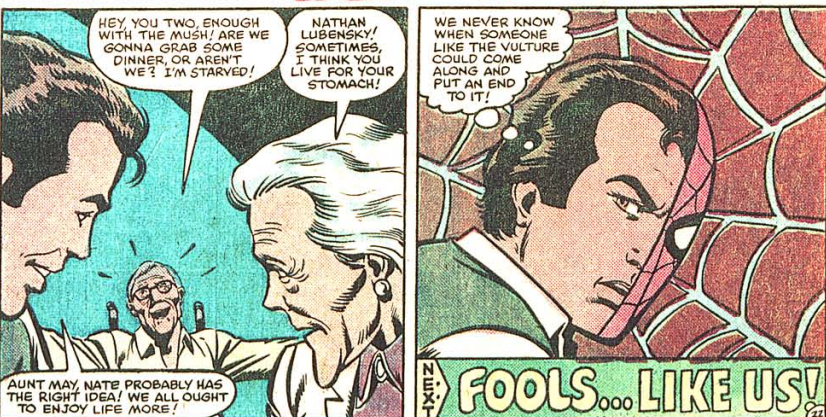
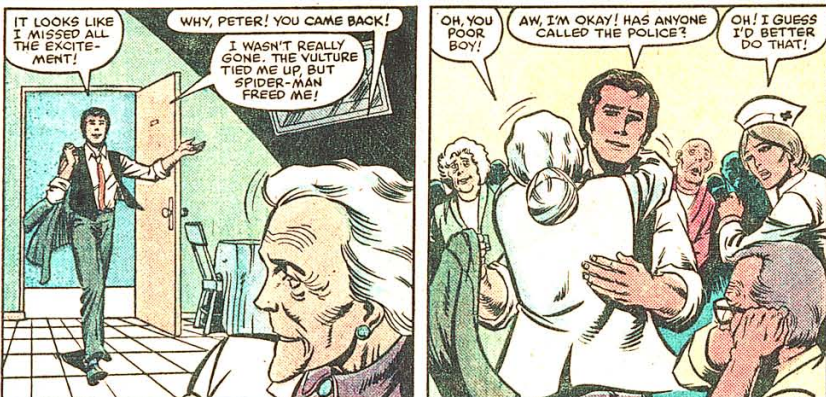
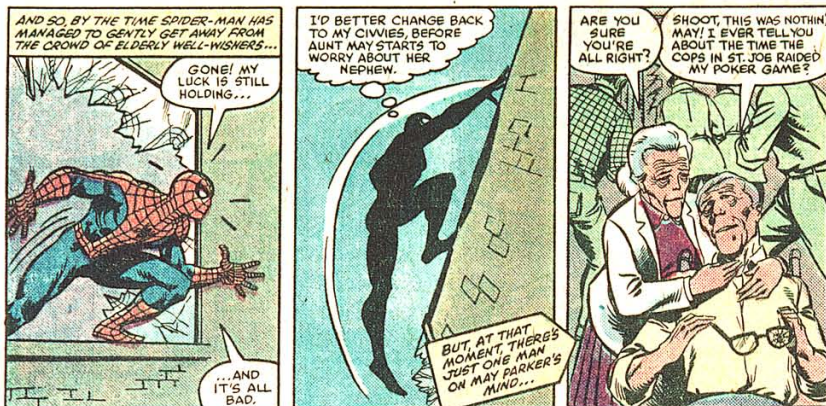
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THE SPIDER'S WEB

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575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
MARK GREENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear People,

I have been collecting and reading your comics for some years now, and a curious aspect about super heroes and super-villains has been becoming clearer to me, and really hit me hard in the Superman/Spider-Man team-up (which, by the way, was absolutely perfect in every way, from beginning to end).

The fact is, that it seems as though super-villains have, on the average, much stronger and more focussed purposes to their lives than do super heroes. While super heroes clean up the baddies and then go home for supper, the super-villains' work is just starting after they demolish their adversaries. Almost without exception, their intention is fixed on a purpose far beyond creaming Spider-Man or the Avengers, which can range from robbery to world domination. While I LOVED it in the S/S team-up when Dr. Doom said, "I am up to gaining absolute domination over this entire planet", it struck me as strange that Spider-Man doesn't have a focus beyond the rather negative action of stopping or destroying an enemy, rather than going out and creating something of value.

Surely, there is a way that a focus — beyond destroying threats as they arrive — could be developed for your super heroes. I agree that they can't go around solving inflation or setting up dictatorships, but they can have a clearly stated aim to make the world work for everybody (as opposed to for themselves only — a bit trickier goal to realize, since it involves working with people, and not over them). And they can be shown to have larger goals than merely stopping criminals. Also, this goal is quite realistic to integrate into comics, since it can't be accomplished by magic or strength. Spider-Man can be depressed when people don't understand what he's trying to do!

Of course, some of your creations come real close to this, the main examples being Dr. Strange and Reed Richards, but it is far from being an all-permeating theme in your comics. Super heroes could make an impact through participation in organizations like The Hunger Project and World Vision, which would be a good way to spread awareness and support for these and other organizations; or they could act in some super-heroic way, like using their powers to help distribute food donated to Somalia. These are only two examples. I'm sure many more and better ones exist!

I have always been impressed with how Marvel continually reaches out beyond being "just a comic book" and hits home with the truth to readers. I know that while comic

books are primarily entertainment and must remain that way, they can also be an important vehicle in making the world work, in real life as well as in their own universe. Please don't be afraid to have a triumphant issue where some positive effort (as opposed to negative) succeeds. After all, there'll always be something else to do!

Thank you for your creations and creativeness in the field of comic books, and for the opportunity you've created for me to write this letter!

Loy Wiesse
#4, 10756-81 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada

Some interesting ideas, Loy. (We did spell your name right, didn't we?) We don't know that they'd all work in Spider-Man's particular worldview, but they do present some possibilities for the likes of the Fantastic Four or the Avengers. We'll pass your suggestions around the Bullpen, and see what happens!

Gentlemen:

Bob McLeod, you are fantastic! Your lettering was a trifle small, and the expressions of pain on some of the faces could have been a bit more ornate, but the artwork was just beautiful. I'm at a loss for words.

And we shouldn't forget Bob Sharin! Bob, your color work is superb. You are on a level with Glynis Wein. Keep up the good work.

Michael, the script was absolutely gorgeous, too. In fact, I think it was better than your work on SPIDER-WOMAN. Too often, we forget that J. Jonah Jameson is a tough newspaper man, and think of him only as Pete's mean boss. Your J.J.J. was nicely realistic. Fine writing, Michael!

Fine comic!

(And the best part about it was that it was produced by only four people... not counting The Big Guy.)

Mark Emerson Dunlap
83 Susan Drive
St. Charles, MO 63301

Aw, but you have to count the Big Guy, Mark! If it weren't for ol' B.G. (alias Jim Shooter), we'd have no one to use our repertoire of tall jokes on!

Dear Marvel,

I was re-reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #205, when it suddenly occurred to me that I hadn't yet written you to complain about the treatment you gave the Black Cat!

I thought that her love for Spider-Man was so great that he could talk her out of her life of crime, and maybe even put her on the right side of the law. Then a closer relationship could develop between them — as Felicia and Peter, as well as for the Black Cat

and Spider-Man. She could become a heroine, fighting crime both with and without Spider-Man.

Please take a poll to see if other readers think she should get well and/or do any of the above. I would greatly appreciate it.

Other than that, I think you're doing a fabulous job.

David Pulliam
656 Louise Avenue
Novato, CA 94947

Shucks, Dave... the only guy we had to poll was Spider-writer Roger Stern. Rog tells us that the curvaceous Cat has some definite plans of her own... plans which will be unfolding in just a few short months!

Dear Tom,

Two weeks ago, I began the long process of re-gathering my comic collection. Yesterday afternoon, I finally got to the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

Spider-Man has one of the better collections of foes in all of comics. Although my favorite villain will never be seen again, except through flashbacks, the loss is eased each time the ol' Wall-crawler gains a new foe.

(My favorite period for SPIDER-MAN, since the primo Stan Lee days, has been the Wein & Wolfman stuff... but Denny has given us some interesting stories!)

Overall, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has been a very good strip. At the very least, it's been a series which can maintain a reader's interest. One could probably reminisce all day about the series, just as I've been doing. I would recommend it!

By the way, will you ever re-introduce the clone of Gwen Stacy? Could Peter ever fall in love with a clone? Wouldn't it be a kick if Spider-Man found out that he really was his clone? I can see it now... the Amazing Spider-Clone!

Paul R. Davis
P.O. Box 18
Rumford Point, ME 04279

Funny you should mention Spider-Man's clone, Paul... as a story dealing with just such circumstances appears in WHAT IF #30 (still on sale in many parts of these United States!).

If you've been a regular follower of Spider-Man's exploits in our sister mag, SPECTACULAR, then you've met Peter Parker's mysterious friend, Greg Salinger. (And if you haven't, get on the web-beam, guys 'n' gals!) Well, next issue we all learn G.S.'s deadly secret in the sensational slugfest we call "Fools Like Us!" Join us, won't you?



Check out these Spider-thrillers for more webbed-up wonderment! On sale soon!

★SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #62: He's fought the Hulk... he's fought Power Man... and now he's back, deadlier than ever! He is the aural antagonist named Goldbug! You won't want to miss "All that Glitters!" — on sale now!

★MARVEL TEAM-UP #113: Together for the first time... our wondrous web-head and the cosmic crusader called Quasar! It's trouble with a capital "T" when Spider-Man's old foe Lightmaster takes over the quasistellar power of Quasar's alien energy-bands and goes gunning for Spidey! Keep your eyes peeled for "The Resurrection of Edward Lansky!"



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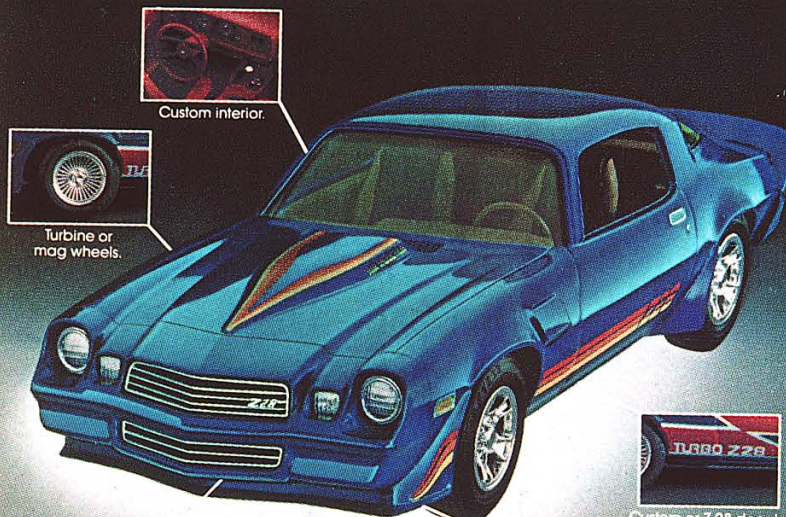
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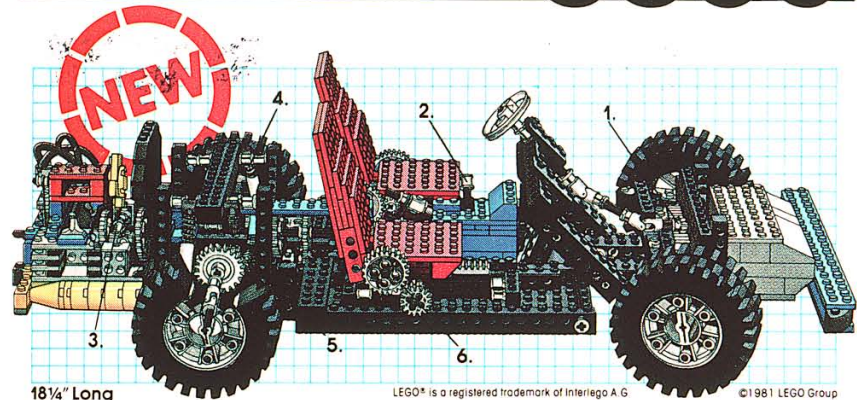
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